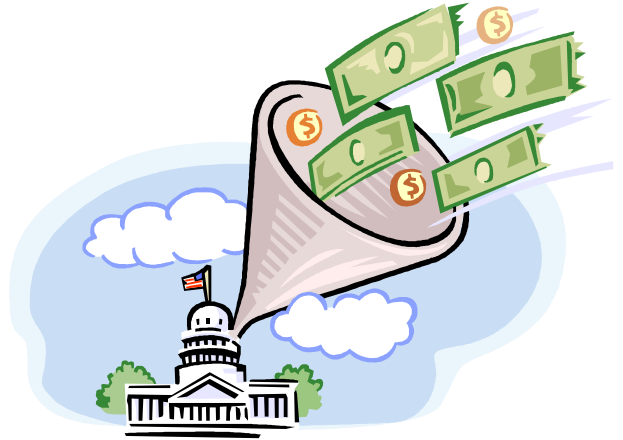




**March 17, 2010**

Dear Kitchen Cabinet members,

Day two and three of the 2010 special session have passed and again, despite having a state budget to pass and a \$2.8 billion dollar deficit to reconcile, little was done. **In fact, we've spent less than two hours total on the floor passing resolutions and debating bills so far this special session, and most of those weren't too meaningful.** This special session is costing taxpayers just under \$20 thousand each day. I'm glad that I'm not contributing to that amount since as you know I'm not accepting pay from the Legislature during this special session.



Today, there was only one bill on the calendar, and we didn't even debate it. In fact, we didn't consider a single bill today. Instead, we passed a resolution (sponsored by just one senator) honoring the living computer museum, then spent the rest of the time waiting for the Democrats to finish their caucus. We expected them to come out and begin floor action, but to everyone's obvious surprise they came out of caucus and adjourned until tomorrow at noon. I consider that an enormous waste of your time and money.

## **Here come the taxes!!!**

**Despite not accomplishing anything on the floor this morning, in the Ways and Means committee hearing this afternoon we saw the beginning of a wave of very bad bills.** We heard a bill you are likely already familiar with. In a previous Kitchen Cabinet I told you about [SB 6766](#), which would levy a new 29-cents-per-acre property tax on land – *including tidal zones* – for fire protection.

I've never heard of a single instance off the land between high-tide and low-tide catching fire. **This bill would essentially tax every piece of land in Washington, including yours, whether it is tidal land, urban areas that don't have any forest and agricultural areas that are already irrigated.** It is a very bad bill that will raise the taxes of everyone who owns property in the state of Washington to fight forest fires, whether you live in a forest or not.

We also held a work session on [SB 6853](#), relating to "creating the legislative review of tax preferences act of 2010." **This is what's called a "title-only" bill and is usually introduced to get around certain public hearing requirements and/or circumvent the legislative process.** I was the only senator to recommend that it not pass since we have absolutely no idea what it will do (a title-only bill is just that...a title with no body). SB 6853 would again send the message that Washington doesn't value small businesses, and this on the same day the newspaper reported unemployment in Pierce County has risen to 11%!

We also considered a draft bill, which to my knowledge is against the rules of the Senate. Senate Committee Rule 45, section two, states: *"No committee may hold a public hearing during a regular or extraordinary session on a proposal identified as a draft unless the draft has been made available to the public at least 24-hours prior to the hearing."*

In addition to a number of other bad bills, **we had a public hearing on [HB 3182](#), which basically pulls the rug out from under the Becca laws** which have been one of the most successful programs created in the past 30 years for protecting at-risk youth. HB 3182 makes "certain unfunded mandates" (the Becca laws) optional for school districts and other political subdivisions. Obviously, I was opposed to this bill and will support an amendment to remove its application to the Becca truancy laws.

Yesterday, we passed the following bills:

- [SB 6503](#) – **Closing state agencies**, which would require state agencies of the legislative, executive and judicial branches to close on certain dates.
- [SB 6789](#) – **Equipment in data centers**, which would provide a tax exemption for the sales and use of qualifying businesses of eligible server equipment to be installed, without intervening use, in an eligible computer data center, and for the use of, or charges made for, labor and services rendered in respect to installing eligible server equipment.

- [SB 6409](#) – **Opportunity pathways account**, which would direct funds from other various state sources into an educational account.
- [SB 6572](#) – **Eliminating accounts**, which would do away with certain accounts and require any residual balance of funds remaining in an eliminated account on July 1, 2010, to be transferred by the state treasurer to the state general fund.
- [SB 6712](#) – **Extending tax incentives**, which would extend expiring tax incentives for certain clean alternative fuel vehicles, producers of certain biofuels and federal aviation regulation part 145 certificated repair stations.
- [SB 6721](#) – **Tax statute clarifications**, which provides clarification of, and makes technical corrections to certain tax statutes.
- [SB 6727](#) – **Health sciences and services**, which would allow a local government that has established a health sciences and services department to grant the authority to borrow money under certain conditions. It would also increase the number of health sciences and services authorities that may be created and authorize certain health sciences and services authorities to impose the sales and use tax that is credited against the state portion of the sales tax.
- [SB 6737](#) – **Air ambulance tax exemption**, which would provide a property tax exemption for an aircraft that is owned by certain nonprofit organizations and used to provide emergency medical transportation services, and also a private aircraft used exclusively for medivac flights from islands in this state.

I'll keep you posted on how things are progressing during this special session, but I don't expect the news to get any better. **If you'd like to keep track of how much of your money the Legislature is wasting, please visit [www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov](http://www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov).**



## In closing...

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her. You can always find information online by visiting my website at [www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell](http://www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell).



As always, if you'd like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by my Olympia office. I look forward to your comments and suggestions because they help me better represent you. My office phone number is (360) 786-7654, and my home phone number is (253) 581-2859. Or you can write me at **102 Irv Newhouse Building, P.O. Box 40428, Olympia, WA 98504-0428.**

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Sincerely,

Mike Carrell

28<sup>th</sup> District State Senator